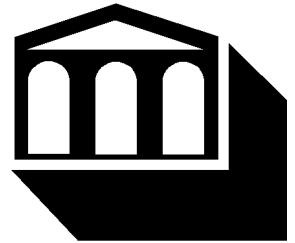


# Contempt of Court Benchbook

## Revised Edition

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**Michigan Judicial Institute**

By **Dawn F. McCarty, J.D., & Leonhard J. Kowalski, J.D.**  
Revised by **Tobin L. Miller, J.D.**

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The research done on this benchbook is current through January 1, 2000. This benchbook is not intended to be an authoritative statement by the Justices of the Michigan Supreme Court regarding any of the substantive issues discussed.

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# Acknowledgments

This benchbook is a revision of the *Contempt of Court Benchguide* (MJJ, 1987), the first longer judicial reference manual produced by the Michigan Judicial Institute's Publications Team. This revised edition contains relevant case law, statutes, and procedural rules created since 1987. In addition, the previous work has been substantially rewritten and reorganized. The *Contempt of Court Benchbook—Revised Edition* (MJJ, 2000) is intended for use by judges and quasi-judicial personnel who conduct contempt proceedings. This work may also be of interest to attorneys who represent persons charged with contempt of court. It is hoped that this new edition will help clarify an area of the law that has traditionally been a source of confusion for the legal community.

MJJ staff members Dawn F. McCarty and Leonhard J. Kowalski authored the 1987 *Contempt of Court Benchguide*. Hon. Randy L. Tahvonen, 29th Circuit Court, served as chairperson of its editorial advisory committee. In addition, Hon. John L. Brundage, Calhoun County Probate Court, Hon. S.J. Elden, 15th District Court, Hon. Harold Hood, Court of Appeals, and Hon. Michael L. Stacey, 3rd Circuit Court, served on the editorial advisory committee for the 1987 edition. Funding for the 1987 *Benchguide* was provided by the Michigan Justice Training Commission pursuant to a grant administered by the Office of Criminal Justice.

The *Contempt of Court Benchbook—Revised Edition* was prepared by Tobin L. Miller, MJJ Research Attorney. Hon. Randy L. Tahvonen, 29th Circuit Court, served as editorial advisor for the revision. Mary Lovik, MJJ Publications Administrator, served as editor. Mary Ann McDaid, MJJ Multi-Media Development Specialist, was responsible for page layout, cover design, and coordination of reproduction. Sheila Kallish, MJJ Office Assistant, assisted with distribution.

The Michigan Judicial Institute was created in 1977 by the Michigan Supreme Court. MJJ is responsible for providing educational programs and written materials for Michigan judges and court personnel. In addition to formal seminar offerings, MJJ is engaged in a broad range of publication activities, services, and projects that are designed to enhance the professional skills of all those serving in the Michigan court system. MJJ welcomes comments and suggestions. Please send them to: **Michigan Judicial Institute, P.O. Box 30205, Lansing, MI 48909, (517) 334-7805.**

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Kevin J. Bowling, J.D.  
Director, Michigan Judicial Institute

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John D. Ferry, Jr.  
State Court Administrator

**January 14, 2000**

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